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7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein regulating usage of the resource comprises modifying the available credit by adjusting a maximum resource usage value.

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9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein notifying the process comprises sending a message to a network address associated with the process when the requested usage amount is greater than the available credit.

10. (Amended) A method of managing a plurality of resources in a network having a plurality of devices, comprising:

for each of the plurality of resources accessed by each of the devices, creating a software tool on the device for accessing the resource, and using the software tool to indicate an available amount of credit for usage of the resources by the device; and

regulate the usage of any of the plurality of the resources by any of the plurality of devices as a function of the indicated available amount of credit.

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12. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the using step comprises: decrementing the maximum usage level of the software tool in response to the use of the resource associated with the tool by any of the plurality of devices;

calculating the available amount of credit based on the usage of the resource associated with the tool as a function of the maximum usage level; and

indicating to a device waiting to use the resource associated with the tool of the available amount of credit.

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17. (Amended) Computer software, residing on a computer-readable medium at a device connected to a network, comprising instructions to cause the device to perform the following operations:

indicating an available amount of credit for usage of a resource; and
regulating usage of the resource by a process as a function of the indicated available amount of credit.

18. (Amended) A network including a plurality of devices, comprising:
a plurality of resources running in the network; and

computer software, residing on a computer readable medium at each device accessing the plurality of resources to cause the device to perform the following operations:-

indicating an available amount of credit for usage of a resource; and
regulating usage of the resource by a process as a function of the indicated available amount of credit.

19. (Amended) The network of claim 18, wherein the plurality of resources comprise memory space or system processor time.

20. (Amended) The network of claim 18, wherein the network comprises an embedded computer system.

21. (Amended) The network of claim 18, wherein the network operates in a real-time networking environment.

Add new claims as follows:

-- 22. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the available amount of credit comprises a difference between a first value representing a maximum resource usage allocated to the process and a second value representing an amount of resource currently used by the process.

23. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the available amount of credit increases per unit of time by an estimated value of the resource that becomes available per unit of time.

24. (New) A method of managing usage of a resource in a network system, the method comprising:

indicating to each of a plurality of processes an available amount of credit for usage of the resource by the process; and

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regulating usages of the resource by the processes according to the indicated
available amount of credits for the processes. --

In the drawings

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Substitute attached drawing sheet for FIG. 1.